

**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the present application in view of the foregoing amendments to the claims.

Claims 2, 12 and 13 were previously canceled, and claims 6-9, 11 and 14 are canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Also, claims 1 and 10 have been amended. Thus, claims 1, 3, 4, 5 and 10 are pending in the present application.

No new matter has been added with the amendments to claims 1 and 10. For instance, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 14. The dependency of claim 10 has been changed.

Based upon the above considerations, entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

In view of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection and all other rejections and allow the currently pending claims.

**Objection to Claim 14**

With regard to paragraph 4 of the Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that this objection is rendered moot since claim 14 has been canceled.

Applicants also note that "polyamide" is correctly spelled in instantly pending claim 1.

***Issues Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph***

Claims 1 and 3-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for reasons of indefiniteness (as stated in paragraphs 4-5 of the Office Action). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants respectfully refer the Examiner to the scope of claim 1 as presented, wherein structural characteristics are recited. Further, "said cleaning area" is recited (see also Figure 1 and page 5, lines 24-31 of the present specification). Thus, the disputed claims fully comply with the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

***Issues Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)***

Claims 1, 4-8 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '895 (JP 09-224895) in view of JP '761 (JP 10-060761) (see paragraphs 6-7 of the Office Action). Also, claims 9 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '895 and JP '761 as applied above, and in further view of JP '415 (JP 2000-328415) (see paragraph 8 of the Office Action). Applicants respectfully traverse, and reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

**Appl. No. 09/974,853**

**Art Unit 1771**

**Reply to Office Action of July 22, 2004**

Though Applicants believe patentable distinctions exist, Applicants respectfully refer the Examiner to the scope of claim 1 as presented. Claim 1 incorporates the subject matter of claim 14. Claim 14 is not at issue with respect to either rejection. Also, claims 9 and 11 have been canceled. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider, withdraw these rejections and allow the currently pending claims.

***Information Disclosure Statement of August 20, 2004***

Applicants respectfully request a copy of the PTO-1449 form, attached to the Information Disclosure Statement filed August 20, 2004, having the Examiner's initials next to each cited reference.

Applicants also request initialed copies of the PTO-1449 forms for the Information Disclosure Statements filed on January 1, 2002, and August 30, 2002.

***Paragraph 2 of the Office Action***

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited *In re Hutchison* case mainly discusses the claim language of "adapted", and not necessarily "capable of" as asserted. Applicants respectfully submit that *Hutchison* is inapplicable case law. Applicants also refer the Examiner to the scope of the claims as presented, wherein this issue is rendered moot.

Appl. No. 09/974,853  
Art Unit 1771  
Reply to Office Action of July 22, 2004

**Conclusion**


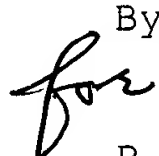
A full and complete response has been made to all issues as cited in the Office Action. Applicants have taken substantial steps in efforts to advance prosecution of the present application. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance issue for the present case.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Eugene T. Perez (Reg. No. 48,501) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By  (#32,881)  
for  John W. Bailey, #32,881

JWB/ETP  
0445-0310P

P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000